GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2950
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2001
INCOME TAX PAYEES
RENU KUMARI SINGH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons paying income tax in the country and the number of them in salaried class;

(b) whether the Government have given the income tax department poor infrastructure and inadequate facilities as compared to advanced countries in the world consequent to which the income-tax payees are less in the country than in other countries; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the hi-tech facilities for proper investigation, on-line computerisation with various banks, hotels, departmental stores, jewellers shops to procure instant information regarding the spread of unaccounted wealth?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

(a) As on 31.3.2001, there were 2,47,37,341 total number of assessees in the country, out of which 2,06,62,926 assessee had filed return in the `Individual` status. However, data in respect of specifically salaried class are not maintained.

(b) The infrastructure facilities provided to the income tax department by the Government are commensurate with the available resources in the country. Technological upgradation with a view to augment number of income tax payees is one of the priority areas.

(c) The Government has taken steps to improve the hi-tech facilities for online computerisation of the income tax department. For this purpose, an all-India network (TAXNET) linking all the computers in the Income Tax offices in 60 cities to theregional computer centres and the National Computer Centre is already in place.A central information branch, (CIB) System has been created for use in the department as an effective tool for widening of tax base and detection of unaccounted wealth.